

LIBBY GEOGRAPHIC AREA NOTES FEBRUARY 09, 2004

Meeting opened 6:30PM at Ponderosa Room,

Attendees signed in: M.Edwards & G.Kujawa, KNF; publics include: Smart, Boothman, Clark, Eggleston, Nixon, Cronenwett, Jackson, Chandler, Leimbach, Hanson, O'Neil, Betlach, auer, Carney, Johnson, Munson, Martin, King, & Parker.

Note: Next meeting date is Febr 23, Monday 6:30PM at Libby Ponderosa Room, will continue to address roadless area management and Treasure Mt Ski Area

Agenda items were: review last meeting, subgroup presentations (CBCH & Snowmobiles, below), Roadless area Maps and discussion (tbc), set next meeting...

Notes: (ref: Lynx DEIS) "Consider the need for flexibility every 10-15 years in Lynx habitat as it changes for additional access, skiing, motorized snow recreation, etc.

"Would there be some areas restricted to no skiers?"

G.Kujawa was introduced and presented some Supervisors' Office perspective on Forest Planning, and timelines etc. Edwards covered the forests' priorities in funding process for upcoming out-years: Fuels mgt, Invasive spp., Forest Planning, Recreation and Timber/Veg.

Discussion on roadless areas and definitions per the maps...there is likely some latitude in how we manage "roadless" areas. depending on needs, FWS concerns, mitigation and whether recommended wilderness or roadless-in-character.
EIS on 2/23 for the group.)

The working group decided to consider designation of a "suitable" mgt area (MA) for consideration of a proposed Treasure Mountain Ski Area. This could happen under one of the revision alternatives and allow the planning process and public comment and resultant decision to determine the outcome. (Edwards to bring maps and ski area documentation to next meeting).

Desired Condition statements:

DESCRIPTIVE DESIRED CONDITIONS FOR LIBBY GA

GOAL: Have in place a trail management plan which incorporates an enforceable system for preserving historic saddle stock use travel routes in the revised forest plan

- Access and Recreation
- Trails - CBCH

Desired Condition Statement	Trails are the primary access routes for the public into roadless areas. The forest plan would include a scheduled maintenance program of existing and identified saddle-stock trails around road closure barricades and would provide for adequate turn-around space for trailers in proximity to the closure device.
Identify Priority Areas	Access to Roadless Areas along Cabinet East Face
Describe why this is a priority	Historical significance of saddle-stock use into and within roadless areas and to provide adequate access for saddle stock use.

DESCRIPTIVE DESIRED CONDITIONS FOR LIBBY GA

GOAL: Have in place a trail management plan which incorporates an enforceable system for preserving historic saddle stock use travel routes in the revised forest plan

- Access and Recreation
- Trails - CBCH

Desired Condition Statement	Maintain travel corridors on trails of 8 foot width, adequate tread-width, and remove obstacles (eg, barricade bolts)
Identify Priority Areas	Access to Roadless Areas along Cabinet East Face
Describe why this is a priority	Provide safe saddle-stock use into and within roadless areas and provide adequate access for saddle stock use.

DESCRIPTIVE DESIRED CONDITIONS FOR LIBBY GA

GOAL: Increase public access for gathering and recreation activities

- Access and Recreation – (Hanson)

Desired Condition Statement	Provide for temporary opening of closed roads (by gate or barricade) during periods that do not conflict with closure restrictions purposes (whether wildlife or other) for various recreational activities.
Identify Priority Areas	Across the geographic area (various locations) where hiking-fishing, firewood gathering or berry-picking, would occur – mainly in proximity to communities. Identify roads in low to mid elevations.
Describe why this is a priority	Disperse public use during summer-to-early Fall gathering times (high use periods)

DESCRIPTIVE DESIRED CONDITIONS FOR LIBBY GA

GOAL: Provide opportunities for recreational access of over the snow vehicles

▪ Access and Recreation - SnoKats

Desired Condition Statement	<p>Adequate and proactive management of over-the-snow vehicle recreational access is planned and provided within the Libby Geographic area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Work with user-group partnerships in evaluating and planning snowmobile routesB. Evaluate current road closures for possible routesC. Provide clear signing of routesD. Provide opportunities for loop routesE. Provide safe access around closure devicesF. Provide adequate parking facilities and consider parking lot size, restroom, warming-hut facilities.G. Work towards maintaining current open-route densities at same level or above.H. Provide flexibility in changing over-the-snow routes as vegetative conditions change (re-evaluate on 10-15 year cycles)
Identify Priority Areas	Maintain existing routes per the Kootenai Snow Trails Map areas 1,2,& 3.
Describe why this is a priority	Increasing demand for visitor days and facilities by user groups for snow recreation motorized activities